



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5

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MTC Advisory Council
July 9, 2008
Minutes

Bob Planthold called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. In attendance were members Wendy Alfsen, Steve Belkin, Angela Columbo, Raphael Durr, Karla Goodbody, David Grant, Mary Griffin, William Hastings, Richard Hedges, Kathryn Hughes, John Inks, Cathy Jackson, Sherman Lewis (via phone), James McGhee, Eli Naor, Margaret Okuzumi, Michael Pechner, and Don Rothblatt.

Minutes - The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Staff Report - Ms. Therese Knudsen commented on the Resolution 3434 strategic plan, stating that the Commission deferred action on it until September 2008. Upon the request of a committee member, she also reported on her presentation on the Lifeline Transportation Program to MTC's Programming and Allocations Committee, which is a funding program to improve mobility options for the regions low-income population. She requested moving forward with a second cycle of funding for approximately \$75 million over a 3-year period. She stated that staff is trying to look at a mean-based fare discount pilot program, which is a program for low-income people. Staff is still in discussion with transit operators, social service agencies, as well as transit advocates.

Report from the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC);
Report from the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC)

Mr. Raphael Durr stated that MCAC has been working with staff on T2035. Mr. David Grant stated that EDAC received two presentations – one on the 5310 Elderly and Disabled Transit Grant Program, and the

other on Mobility Management. He also stated that they had a discussion on the Pedestrian Safety Committee, which put together a tentative draft report that lists the top 20 most dangerous cities in the Bay Area for pedestrians. He noted that EDAC will be looking into community efforts on changes and enforcement, and pursuing this with local officials.

Agenda Item 6 - Update – Sustainable Transportation Subcommittee

Mr. Hastings presented a draft definition, principles, and recommendations to the Commission for sustainable transportation, which are: 1) Adopt a formal definition of “sustainable transportation”; 2) Adopt a set of “Principles of Sustainable Transportation”; 3) Carry out a fuel use characterization study in the nine-county region; 4) Direct staff to review, comment on, and offer recommendations for MTC response to the Hirsch Report; 5) Direct staff to address the issue of “teleworking” and provide policy recommendations to the Commission; 6) Suggest that staff provide a recommendation to the Commission as to whether MTC should support and/or participate in a shared passenger/freight pilot project; and, 7) Produce a report that highlight the MTC’s role in advancing sustainable transportation systems.

Committee comments include:

- Change the word “Direct” to “Urge” or “Suggest”.
- The Principles and the Definition seem to overlap in their language.
- The Guiding Principles overlaps with some of the economics and pricing issues – add an Item 8 that pursues what is described under full cost pricing.
- Why were teleworking and fuel were called out and other options were not?
- Should forward to the Commission with a timeline for response.

Ms. Jackson moved to accept the principles and recommendations with consideration that the language for directing staff would be edited, and that an eighth recommendation would be added reflecting full cost accounting (#10 under guiding principles for sustainable transportation). Mr. Lewis seconded.

Mr. David Schonbrunn, TRANSDEF, commented that Advisory Council should link this work to the regional transportation plan and reducing VMT.

The motion passed with Mr. Inks opposing, and Ms. Hughes abstaining.

Agenda Item 7 - Update – Transportation Economics and Pricing Subcommittee

Mr. Lewis recommended that the committee approve the report and forward it to the Commission for whatever action they choose to take.

Committee comments include:

- The report is good but too technical and academic – should be restructured and framed more like the Sustainable Transportation document that reflects a series of streamlined recommendations to the Commission.
- Concern with parking pricing and the effects it has on suburban communities. Suggest that both private and public parking should be considered.
- Suggest recommending a transportation, economics, and pricing program that would include implementing a number of studies.

Mr. Pechner moved approval of the report and recommended that the suggestions within the report to be forwarded to the Commission for approval, and returned to the committee with advise on next steps from the Commission. Mr. McGhee seconded.

Mr. Naor recommended a substitute motion suggesting that based on Advisory Council comments, the subcommittee come back to the full Advisory Council in September with a series of streamlined draft recommendations to be forwarded to the Commission.. Ms. Jackson seconded.

A committee vote on the substitute motion reflected 14 yes, and 3 no. The substitute motion passed.

Agenda Item 8 - Preferred Investment Package for Transportation 2035 Plan

Ms. Catalina Alvarado presented the staff proposal on the preferred investment package for the Transportation 2035 Plan, and requested committee comment/input. She noted that staff had a Joint Advisors Workshop in June where staff presented the investment package in more detail, and received some broad direction from the Advisors on the staff proposal.

The committee agreed with the Joint Advisors on increasing funds for Lifeline. They agreed to decrease funds for bikes, giving a portion to increase funds for pedestrian programs. They agreed to increase funds for climate change. They concurred with the Joint Advisors on the TLC program. They agreed with decreasing funds for the Freeway Performance Initiative. They agreed to increasing transit maintenance, and concurred with the Joint Advisors on Local Road Maintenance staying at \$7 billion. Lastly, they did not take a position on expansion.

Mr. David Schonbrunn, TRANSDEF, stated that if the committee really wants to see their suggestions followed, there has to be money for it, which may require a sustainability package – reprogramming money from committed projects.

Several members suggested the Transportation and Land Use Coalition's revised Investment Proposal, which was passed out at the meeting.

Other committee comments included:

- Many of the bike projects are for recreation – not general transportation. Should reduce funding.
- Need to make biking safe for work trips
- Do not cut pedestrian funding

Ms. Okuzumi made a motion for the committee to recommend that MTC revisit committed projects in light of AB32 and to not adopt the policy as drafted. Mr. Pechner seconded. The motion passed with one opposing and 2 abstaining.

Ms. Okuzumi moved to recommend that the Commission support increased funding for efficiency, as proposed in TALC's Proposal A, revised. Ms. Alfsen seconded. The motion failed with 6 yes, 6 no, and 2 abstaining.

Translink

Ms. Lisa Hale provided details about fare policies and TransLink®. She stated that there are four different fare categories: a regular adult card entitling travel using adult fares, a senior card, which allows for senior discounts, a youth card, which is the same as the adult card but is encoded with patrons' birth dates, and the Regional Transit Connection (RTC) discount card, which is for qualifying seniors and people with disabilities.

Mr. Ken Rhodes, AC Transit, stated that anyone using TransLink® RTC card can load AC Transit's monthly pass, which is only available on a RTC card. Someone who has a senior card or who is paying a senior cash fare, does not have direct access to AC Transit's monthly pass. He noted that if one has an RTC card and they load e-cash on that card, it will work just like a senior card. The RTC card can be purchased at AC Transit, 1600 Franklin, Oakland or at the Lake Merritt BART station.

Mr. Planthold suggested that this concern be forwarded to the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee for that committee to consider. Advisory Council members concurred.

Mr. Alan Zahradnik, Golden Gate Transit, suggested that since there was no issue with Golden Gate Transit and TransLink® that references to Golden Gate Transit be removed from the third paragraph of the language proposed by Wendy Alfsen. Chair Planthold indicated that the language would be forwarded without reference to this paragraph.

Other Business/Public Comment

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for September 10, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.